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KISSINGER

BY BARRY SCHWEID

NEW DELHI INDIA (AP) -- HENRY A. KISSINGER HAS ASSURED INDIAN LEADERS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT PLANNING TO RESUME SHIPMENT OF LETHAL WEAPONS TO PAKISTAN, IT WAS LEARNED TONIGHT.

"WE FEEL QUITE REASSURED BY WHAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS TOLD US REGARDING ARMS," A SENIOR INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SAID. THE ISSUE HAS BEEN A MAJOR IRRITANT IN U.S.-INDIAN RELATIONS SINCE THE MID-1950S, WHEN THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION BEGAN PUMPING IN MILITARY HARDWARE TO BUILD UP A COUNTERWEIGHT TO INDIA AND CHINA.

KISSINGER, IN A MAJOR POLICY SHIFT, DECLARED DURING HIS THREE-DAY VISIT THAT "THE UNITED STATES ACCEPTS NONALIGNMENT," A POLICY OF STEERING CLEAR OF POWER BLOCS.

INDIAN SOURCES SAID THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD INFORMED THEM WASHINGTON NO LONGER VIEWS PAKISTAN AS A COUNTERWEIGHT TO INDIA IN THE SUBCONTINENT.

AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, INDIAN OFFICIALS APPEARED WELL PLEASED ABOUT KISSINGER'S GOOD-WILL MISSION HERE. "THERE IS NOTHING BUT COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, SAID THE INDIAN OFFICIAL.

HOWEVER, WITH KISSINGER DUE IN ISLAMABAD ON THURSDAY, AMERICAN AND INDIAN OFFICIALS ARE TREATING THE SUBJECT OF ARMS WITH EXTREME SENSITIVITY.

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